

# Executive Committee

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## Minutes

of the Executive Committee Meeting held at the Galatsi Olympic Sports Hall, in Athens, Greece, **18 August 2004**, at 15:30 hours

### 1 President's welcome and opening remarks

The President welcomed Mr. Georgios Seliniotakis, Competition Manager for the Athens Olympic Games, who welcomed the Executive Committee to Athens and wished all a successful meeting and a successful Olympic table tennis event. Mr. Adham Sharara apologised for late arrival in Athens and welcomed all to the Games.

### 2 Roll call

Adham Sharara	President
Pierre Albertini	Deputy President
George Segun	Executive Vice-President
Nils Bergström	Executive Vice-President
Yang Shuan	Executive Vice-President
Han Sang Kook	Executive Vice-President (Finance)
Judit Faragó	Executive Vice-President

### In attendance

Jordi Serra	Executive Director
Lilamani de Soysa	Project Manager
Glenn Tepper	Development Manager
Raul Calin	Competition Manager
Didier Leroy	Competition Manager
Anders Thunström	Managing Director - TMS
Christian Veronese	Event Marketing Manager - TMS

### Invited to attend (for item 13.2)

Jean-François Kahn Chairman Sports Science Committee

### 3 Approval of Agenda

The Agenda was approved as presented.

### 4 Minutes

#### 4.1 Approval of Minutes of previous meeting (Doha, March 2004)

The Minutes of the Executive Committee Meetings held on 29 February and 6 March 2004 in Doha, Qatar, were signed by the President as a true record of the meeting.

#### 4.2 Business arising from the Minutes (not covered by Agenda)

No other business than that covered by the Agenda.

### 5 Olympic Games update

#### 5.1 Final participation

Mr. Jordi Serra reported that the full quota of participation had been achieved and that 172 players were present in Athens. The Egyptian players

who were unable to participate had been replaced by players from Africa according to the results of the African Qualification event (African Games). There were 50 NOCs present, 2 more than in Sydney. Apart from small technical problems to be solved the event was running smoothly.

## **5.2 Representations/Functions**

It was reported that in the absence of the President at the start of the Games the Deputy President, the Executive Vice-Presidents and the Executive Director had attended functions as needed.

## **5.3 Accommodation, accreditation and upgrades**

It was reported that the accreditation process had been handled well by the ITTF and that 15 upgrade passes had been received. However, accommodation had posed several problems. Mr. Serra explained the various problems encountered. A complaint would be made to the IOC after the Games.

## **5.4 Outstanding issues**

Mr. Jordi Serra reported that the food served in the VIP lounge was not adequate. It was decided that the ITTF would order its own food for the VIP lounge. The Internet connections were too slow and faster connections would have to be bought at high cost. Ms Lilamani de Soysa said that local mobile phones should be provided for the staff and that it should be added to the list of obligatory items to be provided by the organisers of any World events.

# **6 Finances**

## **6.1 Audited Financial Statements**

Mr. Jordi Serra reported that the financial statements had now been audited, one month after the AGM in Doha, and distributed. Mr. Han Sang Kook had been present in Lausanne during the Lausanne audit and Mr. Sharara had attended the Ottawa audit. 2003 had been a successful year with a small profit of USD 70,000. In response to Mr. Albertini's questions, Mr. Adham Sharara said that in the future more detailed information would be given about TMS activities and financial transactions. TMS was a not-for-profit organisation, which acted as a marketing clearing-house for the ITTF and passed on all profits to the ITTF as indicated in the financial statements. All contracts made by TMS were co-signed by the President on behalf of the ITTF.

Mr. Adham Sharara said that the building acquired in Ottawa was a good investment but was strictly an investment tool. When the market is right the ITTF should consider selling the building to benefit from an equity gain. This matter will be studied in the future.

## **6.2 Cash flow recovery**

Mr. Adham Sharara said that there had been a tight cash flow situation and several complaints had been registered due to the slow payment of dues by the ITTF. The cash flow restrictions had been created by the large expense incurred by converting ITTF reserve funds into real-estate investments and the Olympic money coming to an end in 2003. It was also due to the fact that sponsorship dues are often received late. However, the ITTF now had a line of credit and as soon as the Athens Olympic money would be received all dues would be settled. Mr. Pierre Albertini said that regular information should be given to the EC about the current financial situation. Ms. Judit Faragó said that a solution had to be found in order to pay the prize money as quickly as possible. Mr. Adham Sharara said that all prize money still due would be paid as soon as the Olympic funds were received.

### **6.3 Olympic income update**

Mr. Jordi Serra said that the last news had been good news as the Olympic income would be higher than expected. The final exact amount was still not known. He said the budget would be adjusted accordingly and presented to the Executive Council in December. It was reported that the first instalment of 45% would be received in October this year, the next 45% in November and the final 10% in June 2005.

### **6.4 Tax issues**

It was reported that there was a problem recouping the VAT (value added tax) paid in Switzerland. 90% should be recoverable but up to now only 30% of what is paid on the Renens building renovations seemed to be recoverable. A meeting with the tax authorities would be arranged in order to reclassify the building so that as much of the VAT paid could be recovered.

## **7 Marketing Update**

### **7.1 Liebherr**

Mr. Anders Thunström reported that Liebherr was increasing their investment in table tennis, which was very welcome news. TMS finalised a 3-year deal (2005-2007) with Liebherr on behalf of the ITTF including World Championships, ITTF Pro Tour, Men World Cup and the ITTF Travelling Museum to World Championships.

### **7.2 Volkswagen**

It was reported that an answer from Volkswagen was expected by the end of September regarding the future involvement of VW with the ITTF Pro Tour, ITTF Table Tennis Academy in Beijing and sponsoring of the Chinese National Team.

### **7.3 ETTU**

Mr. Adham Sharara reported that he had a meeting with the President of the ETTU, Stefano Bosi, in July in Renens and that a package deal had been agreed upon together to include ETTU events in the Liebherr sponsorship including European Championships, Top 12 and European Champions league. This package was included in the ITTF 3-year package. Anders Thunström said that Liebherr preferred to have an all-inclusive package instead of taking on individual events, which meant less money for the Pro Tour but long-term partnership with Liebherr as a prime table tennis sponsor and a good benefit for the ETTU.

Mr. Pierre Albertini congratulated the President and TMS for concluding this agreement.

Mr. Anders Thunström reported that several TV packages had been sold to Japan for Shanghai and Bremen WTTC and that TMS was in continuous discussion with CCTV (China).

## **8 World Table Tennis Championships**

### **8.1 Shanghai 2005**

Mr. Yang Shuan reported that work was progressing according to schedule. Sponsorship deals were in place but still had to clarify TV rights with TMS. Mr. Anders Thunström explained that CCTV would do the international and national coverage and Shanghai television would have domestic rights on a tape-delay basis.

## **8.2 Bremen 2006**

Mr. Adham Sharara reported that an agreement had been found with the DTTB concerning the ITTF financial contribution to Bremen 2006. The ITTF had agreed to pay a fixed amount based on the income projected and the President of the DTTB would be recommending the proposal to the Board of the DTTB. Mr. Nils Bergström who will be continuing his functions as WTTC co-ordinator will be meeting with the DTTB in the near future.

## **8.3 Zagreb 2007**

Mr. Adham Sharara said he would be meeting with Mr. Ivo-Goran Munivrana in Athens and would report to the next EC meeting.

## **8.4 Team WTTC playing system update**

Mr. Adham Sharara explained that following-up on the decision made in Doha, the National Associations had been asked for their input regarding the Team WTTC playing system. 5 proposals had been received but many were of the opinion that the system used in Osaka was the best so far. A final decision would be made in Shanghai next year.

The deadline for sending applications to host the 2008 WTTC was the 30<sup>th</sup> of September this year.

## **8.5 Developing Associations participation in the WTTC (proposal)**

Mr. Ranga Ramanujan's proposal on how to increase the participation of developing association at the WTTC was referred to the EC+ meeting. Ms Judit Faragó asked those present to find ways of increasing the participation of women's teams as well.

# **9 Women's Working Group**

## **9.1 3<sup>rd</sup> IOC Women and Sport Conference. Marrakech**

Ms Judit Faragó made a short report about ITTF participation at the 3<sup>rd</sup> IOC Women and Sport Conference in Marrakech. She said that it was clear that the IOC considered the ITTF as a model for other International Federations in the area of Women in Sport development.

## **9.2 Woman athlete in WWG**

The Women's Working Group wished to co-opt an athlete to the group and suggested the name of Asa Svensson from Sweden. The EC accepted the proposal on condition that the Swedish Table Tennis Association accepts as well. Ms Judit Faragó was requested to contact the Swedish Association.

## **9.3 Lausanne Leadership Programme**

Ms Lilamani de Soysa gave an update report on the Women's Leadership Education programme that was being organised at the University of Lausanne on an initiative by the ITTF. The programme was now ready and the next step would be to invite all the Executive Directors of the International Federations in Lausanne to present it to them. It was said that all Federations would be asked to reserve USD 2,000 towards this programme and to ensure that they send 3-5 participants from their National Organisations to the event each year. Ms de Soysa said that she would also be presenting the programme to Ms Anita de Frantz of the IOC the next day in Athens.

## **9.4 Women and Sport, Informal meeting in Athens**

An informal Women in Sport meeting was held at the Galatsi Olympic Sports hall initiated by the ITTF. Several women from other sports federations and women's groups attended. Ms Judy Kent of the Commonwealth Games

Federation gave an update report of her meeting with Commonwealth Ministers the day before.

#### **9.5 Hungarian experiment**

Ms Judit Faragó explained that the Women's Working Group had been discussing the possibility of creating a mixed table tennis event that would integrate men and women players. With this idea in mind an experiment had been carried out at the Regional event of the European Youth Championships held in Hungary. She said a boy's singles match, a girl's singles match and a mixed doubles match had been played in a relay system and that the experiment was a great success in particular where team spirit was concerned.

#### **10 Proxy System update**

Mr. Pierre Albertini explained that the working group had held several brain storming sessions and produced the document that was distributed to the EC. It was decided to refer this item to the EC+ meeting, to inform all National Associations of the outcome of the work done by the group, to get their feedback and then report to the EC in December.

#### **11 Professional Staff Update**

##### **11.1 Competition Managers**

Mr. Adham Sharara said that there had been a successful and smooth transition from Mr. Zlatko Cordas to the new Competition Managers (Mr. Raul Calin for the Junior events and Mr. Didier Leroy for the Pro Tour events). The feedback that had been received so far was positive but an assessment would be made of the overall year in Shanghai.

##### **11.2 Media position**

Mr. Adham Sharara said that the position was left vacant with the departure of the Media and Communication Manager, Mr. Peter Jensen. He said that Mr. Jensen had declined the ITTF offer to continue on a part-time consultancy basis, covering only the main events such as the WTTC, Pro Tour finals and the Olympics. The future Media Manager would be a consultant who would collaborate with an assistant based in the Lausanne office. This assistant may be trained in order to take over the Media Manager position in the future. The local Media Managers of Pro Tour events would be given courses and trained by the ITTF and web articles would be produced by the local organisers. The ITTF had already been approached by several potential candidates. Mr. Pierre Albertini said that he had been very surprised and regretted to hear of the departure of Mr. Peter Jensen who he considered to be an asset to the ITTF. However, it was necessary to fill the position as soon as possible so that Media matters are taken care of professionally.

##### **11.3 Interns/Apprentices concept**

It was reported that the ITTF would be using interns whenever possible as the Headquarters in Renens also had space to accommodate them. Christin Schuchow from Germany spent 6 months at our office and helped with the Athens preparations and had been replaced by Susan Dong from China who will be at the ITTF for 6 months as well. It was also said that an apprentice from Japan TTA would be joining the ITTF together with Mr. Li Tiefeng from China who would be at the ITTF for one year.

## **12 Future ITTF structure**

### **12.1 Committees**

Mr. George Segun reported that three working group meetings had been held and that a questionnaire was now ready to be sent to all National Associations and officials for their feedback. The deadline for sending input was the 1<sup>st</sup> of October and a report would be made in November. It was said that a member of the Executive Committee and a member of the staff should be part of all the committees.

### **12.2 Shanghai (ITTF Asia Office)**

Mr. Adham Sharara reported that the ITTF Asia Office was now open, situated less than five minutes from the Shanghai stadium in a suite at the Olympic Hotel. It had been decided that Mr. Steve Dainton, the Oceania Development Officer, who spoke Mandarin and who had a marketing background, would work 50% for the ITTF as the Co-ordinator of this office for a period of one year before a more definite decision was taken, and 50% for the Oceania development programme.

### **12.3 Staff structure**

Mr. Adham Sharara said that all staff contracts ending in 2004 would be extended on a month-to-month basis while the ITTF structure was being studied and that contracts would be offered to the staff as soon as possible. Mr. Pierre Albertini said that the staff structure should be studied carefully in order to lay the foundations for the future ITTF. He said it was important to have strong professionals and to create a more dynamic work environment together with the politically elected officials.

## **13 Anti-Doping and WADA**

### **13.1 Sanctions review**

It was reported that the Egyptian player who had been tested positive for nandrolone and who had been suspended by the ITTF for 2 years was making a new appeal. After consultation and analysis of the Egyptian appeal, the Executive Committee recommended that the suspension should be reduced until the end of December 2004, provided that the ITTF got legal advice to ensure it was possible to do so. This would reduce the sanction from 2 years to 18 months instead.

### **13.2 ITTF Doping Hearing Panel (5.8.1.1) and Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE) Panel.**

According to ITTF Anti-doping rule 5.8.1.1. It was necessary to appoint a standing panel consisting of a Chair and four other experts with experience in anti-doping ("ITTF Doping Hearing Panels"). The Chair should be a lawyer. It was decided that the Executive Director should consult with other International Federations and make a proposal at the next Executive Committee Meeting.

It was also reported that a panel of physicians should be appointed to consider requests for Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE). Three offers had been received from laboratories and the Executive Director was requested to write to the one in Lausanne, which was offering the most reasonable prices.

It was decided that an item regarding the creation of a Panel to consider cases of bad behaviour would be added to the EC+ Agenda.

## **14 Representations**

Mr. Pierre Albertini reported on his visits to the following events on behalf of the ITTF:

- Small Island Games in Las Palmas

- Final World Olympic Qualifying Tournament in Innsbruck.
- Latin American Championships
- Brazilian Open

Mr. Han Sang Kook reported that he represented the ITTF at the Singapore Open which was well organised and had a full house of spectators at every session.

Mr. George Segun reported on his visit to Bizerte, Tunisia for the Arab Championships where 10 countries were represented by women and 17 by men.

Ms. Judit Faragó reported on her visit to Charleroi, Belgium for the European League Championships where she negotiated the World Cup 2005 to be held in Belgium.

It was said that a representative would be nominated by the President to the 2004 World Cup in due course.

## **15 Next Meetings**

### **15.1 Follow-up meeting in Athens**

The EC meeting to be continued on 21<sup>st</sup> August 2004, from 16-17h.

### **15.2 Executive Council meetings**

The EC+ meeting to be held on 21<sup>st</sup> August 2004 at 17h.

### **15.3 Madeira or Montenegro, October 2004**

It was decided that the next EC meeting will take place in Madeira, Portugal, 25 October to 1 November.

### **15.4 China, December 2004**

An EC and EC+ meeting will be scheduled during the Pro Tour Finals in China, 9-12 December 2004. Item referred to EC+ meeting.

## **16 Any other business**

Meeting to be continued on 21<sup>st</sup> August at 16h.

## **17 Adjournment**

The Meeting was adjourned at 18h15, resumed on 21<sup>st</sup> August 2004 at 16h and adjourned at 17h. All matters are covered in the minutes.